

Macomb County Among First to put Searchable Circuit Court Case List on the Internet

By Carmella Sabaugh, Macomb County Clerk - Register of Deeds

Macomb County Circuit Court Chief Judge Peter J. Maceroni and I completed a joint effort that is believed to place Macomb County among the first in Michigan to put circuit court case names, case numbers and the judges assigned to those cases on the Internet. This new service makes it possible to find out whether Macomb County civil or criminal cases were filed involving a company or individual without having to make a trip to the county clerk's office. It also provides access to the name index if the county's main frame computer system is not accessible. Attorneys, senior citizens and even the U.S. Navy will benefit from this new service.

According to Thomas Hartwig, Staff Attorney for the Legal Assistance Program of the Macomb County Department of Senior Citizen Services, "County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh's new service will make it easier for our Program to help senior citizens. Seniors wanting to hire a contractor for home improvements will now be able to use the Internet to check up on a contractor to see if any lawsuits have been filed against the company."

"Even before this new service, Macomb County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh's office had the best customer service of all the counties I visit," said James D. Schoenherr, Senior Investigator, Recon Management Group, LLC. "Now her Internet service will let us get information much quicker and save money for our clients."

"Thanks to County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh it is now easier to find out if new recruits have pending court cases and whether they meet the high standards set by the Navy," said Edmond J. Vodochodsky, Recruiter-in-Charge, Navy Recruiting Station, Mount Clemens. "I can now do from my desk what I used to have to drive to the clerk's office to do. This new service gives me more time to serve our country doing other duties my job requires."

Members of the public now have 24-hour Internet access to look up whether or not a case exists for a particular person and, if so, the case number, whether it was a



civil, criminal or domestic case, the year it was filed and the judge who was assigned to the case. To see the case file or learn the status of a case, a person must still visit, fax or write to the county clerk's office.

In the future we hope to put actual case file documents on the Internet in the same way we have put real estate records on the Internet.

The court index may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.co.macomb.mi.us/clerksoffice> or <http://www.co.macomb.mi.us/circuitcourt>.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your county clerk. ■



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